(TMI Focus, Vol. XXXII Nos. 3&4, Summer/Fall 2010)

GATEWAY VOYAGE® IN ROMANIA: A DREAM COME TRUE

by Andrea Berger

Andrea Berger grew up in Bucharest, Romania, and has traveled throughout India studying yoga and meditating on inner light and sound. She now lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, with her husband and their two children. Andrea works as an information technology manager for a large consumer goods company and is a certified VortexHealing® divine energy healer, a Reiki master, and an enthusiastic yoga practitioner. In her "spare" time, she is a graduate student in transpersonal psychology at Atlantic University in Virginia Beach, Virginia, an institution founded by Edgar Cayce. Since 2003, Andrea has attended many TMI residential programs. She is an accredited TMI OUTREACH *facilitator and a Local Chapter Network regional coordinator.*

Carol and Andrea ring the bell purchased at nearby Bran Castle, aka "Dracula's" Castle

Ever since attending the *GATEWAY VOYAGE* at The Monroe Institute® in 2003, it has been my dream to bring the program to Romania, my home country. In July 2010, this dream finally came true after months of intense preparations. I am deeply thankful to the people who helped bring this program to life: Petru Visarion Stetiu (for his hard work translating all the program materials), Skip Atwater (for making the program exercises available in Romanian), Carol Sabick (for cofacilitating the program and being a wonderful mentor), and Ritta Nicoara (for marketing the program and finding the perfect venue). Special thanks go to the TMI leadership for their support in making this program possible. Paul Rademacher and Skip Atwater even connected with us via Skype one afternoon, talked to the participants, and admired the surrounding countryside via Carol's laptop webcam.

There was a great need for the *VOYAGE* in Romania, since many people there are interested in consciousness exploration. The program filled quickly and had a lengthy waiting list. Because of the economic situation, it is difficult for Romanians to travel to TMI, and then there is the English language barrier. Carol remarked on the enthusiasm of the participants, who found the exercises too short and listened eagerly (twice) to *The Visit*, which is often perceived as long and boring.

The truly perfect venue for our program was Plaiul Foii near Zarnesti. We had the place to ourselves, and our host, Liliana, delighted us with culinary treats and her joyful and maternal presence made us all feel at home. From the house we could see the majestic Piatra Craiului mountains—part of the Southern Carpathians. Piatra Craiului means “Rock of the King” in English. Indeed, we harnessed the exquisite powerful energy of the mountains in our consciousness explorations. The house where we stayed—Zalmoxe’s Hut—utilized wind power and solar energy.

We had a group of twenty-three amazing participants. About half of them had attended the *2009 EXCURSION* workshop in Cluj (for more information about earlier TMI activities in Romania see TMI Focus, winter/spring 2010). Several of the group had had an out-of-body or a near-death experience previously and many were experienced meditators and healers. We also had some neophytes, however. People arrived from all parts of the country. They were of all ages and from a wide range of professions—engineers, doctors, information technology managers, architects, lawyers, university professors, and business people—but their diversity didn’t prevent them from forming strong bonds by the end of the week. That bonding shines through in their comments.

View of Piatra Craiului mountains from Zalmoxe’s Hut

Solar panels and wind turbines for "green" power at Zalmoxe's Hut

Ibi Mazurek—"The week I spent in Plaiul Foii was very fruitful for my personal development on many levels: we did some interesting exercises that I will be able to use in my day-to-day life going forward. I met and befriended some very special people, who are now dear to my heart and part of my life. The most important gifts that I received during this program are too profound to be captured by words. In summary, this program happened at the right time, in the right place, and with the right group of people.

"The universe was supporting my decision to attend this program, as everything leading to the program went very smoothly. I was remembering fondly the *2009 EXCURSION* workshop in Cluj and was hoping that the *GATEWAY* program would bring similar new experiences and knowledge. The location—Zalmoxe's Hut—and its owner, Liliana, were already very dear to me, as I had been there before for another course. However, I came to the program in a state of emotional turmoil, hoping to resolve an issue that had long preoccupied me. After each exercise, I felt I had resolved the problem, but when the next exercise started, I felt I was wrestling anew with my problem.

"After the program, for about a month, my emotional state was in a continual up-and-down alternating from very happy to very depressive moments. I continued listening to the take-home exercise and also the other free downloads, especially *The Miraculous Principle* and *Healing Journeys*. I can now truthfully say that I succeeded to resolve my problem and that I'm now in a very centered state—trying to share unconditional love to those around me. I feel now that everything is in harmony and that I can resolve any situation easily and gracefully. For example, I was able to heal my right shoulder very quickly using the above-mentioned TMI exercises as well as prana nadi energy healing and tai chi. Additionally, I am very pleased to have been appointed the coordinator for the Dolphin Energy Club in Romania. We now have

nineteen club members, and we've received several healing solicitations so far. I'm awaiting with anticipation and gratitude the journey ahead!"

Andrei Goidaci—"This program was a very strong energetic boost for all my experiences beyond the physical body. During the program I felt constantly engulfed by a very strong energy (coming from the trainers, guides, and who knows what other sources), an energy that I still feel now, when I listen to the exercises from the *GATEWAY EXPERIENCE*® albums. In short, it was a life-changing experience that I recommend to all."

Lia Botezatu—"I discovered Robert Monroe's three books a few years ago by accident. They fascinated me and opened new horizons of knowledge for me, but also raised many questions. I started to deeply desire to experiment with and to explore the nonphysical worlds, in search for answers to my many preoccupying questions. Through the Internet I found The Monroe Institute Web site, where I read about the patented binaural beat sound technology and the programs offered at the Institute. My desire to participate in a TMI program materialized sooner than I had anticipated, with the *GATEWAY VOYAGE* happening in Romania in July 2010. I had a wonderful experience, in large part due to the warm and supportive guidance offered by the two facilitators, Carol Sabick and Andrea Berger. As we explored the various Focus levels, I started noticing the subtle differences between them. I had a peak experience in the exercise *Elation Universe*, in which the Earth melted into my heart in an expanded feeling of love and light. After the program, I noticed an increase in the number of synchronicities happening in my life and how various events connect to each other like pieces of a puzzle coming together. Also, I started to observe how my thoughts and those of others around me materialize physically in day-to-day life."

Mihaela Visan—"The *GATEWAY VOYAGE* program has changed my life completely. During all the time spent at Plaiul Foii I discovered that there is life beyond the physical dimension and that we all are part of the same Mother energy that provides love and harmony to us all. While doing the exercises I had unique spiritual experiences and a deep connection to the Source. In one exercise, I was in Focus 15 in the form of an angel. I noticed other light beings flying around me: green, pink, yellow, and purple. They came from many planets forming a Gathering around the Earth.

"A very old and powerful energy being appeared before us and told us that we had been summoned to help the planet, as it was in desperate need of healing. As we looked down to Earth, we noticed it had the shape of a heart, which was barely pulsing and looked like it was covered in cancer metastases. We all started sending reinvigorating energy to the planet and slowly, slowly, we noticed that it absorbed our energy and was coming back to life. It was an amazing experience! I think this message was intended for humanity at large . . . that we need

to be more conscious of how our activities affect our planet. Beyond that, I had the honor to meet so many wonderful people who enriched my life. I feel that if this program would be made available to all the people of this planet the world would be a better place to live."

Petru Visarion Stetiu—"I came across Robert Monroe's books several years ago and devoured them enthusiastically, because they opened a new window into other realities, which were relatively unfamiliar to me until then. As a physicist, I very much appreciated the objectivity with which Bob researched and explored these nonphysical realms, and he inspired me to also become a consciousness explorer. In time, I felt the need to share my knowledge with my community and with my professional colleagues, as in the field of physics there are rarely truly new discoveries, while here we had something completely new that merited exploration and research. I had practiced relaxation techniques in my youth and had some interesting experiences, but nothing compared to what I was able to experience using the binaural-beat exercises that Andrea sent to me over the years. And so began a long collaboration with Andrea, and we started several TMI activities in Romania such as Hemi-Sync® gatherings and the publishing of *Journeys Out of the Body* (see *TMI Focus*, winter/spring 2010). *[See: Topics/International/Romania]*

"One of my deepest desires at that time was to participate in a TMI residential program, but I was unable to travel to Virginia. In collaboration with Andrea, we worked hard to bring the *EXCURSION* workshop in 2009 and then, in 2010, the *GATEWAY VOYAGE* program to Romania. The *GATEWAY* program represented the 'harvest' time of all my efforts over so many years. I had some amazing experiences, several OBEs (the first one being confirmed by Carol Sabick), and interesting messages, as well as glimpses of past lives.

"I would like to highlight one experience in particular. During the walking exercise—as I entered Focus 12—I immediately felt the presence of many friendly nonphysical beings, who were very happy that I was there. In Focus 15, the thought came into my mind to find out what had happened at this location exactly 300 years earlier, i.e., on July 15, 1710. The image of a traditional wedding scene came into my mind: two young people, dressed in traditional Romanian festive attire were riding in a decorated horse-drawn carriage—preceded by two riders, also in festive attire. Upon further research, it turned out that July 15, 1710, was a Sunday, a likely time for a rural wedding in Romania.

"After the program—at Carol's and Andrea's suggestion—I went back in my meditations to this event, and more details emerged: the names and ages of the young couple, where they were from, and the small church in the Piatra Craiului mountains where the wedding occurred. I'm still unclear why it was important for me to remember this event. I plan to research the local archives of Zarnesti (the nearby town) to determine if such a wedding indeed happened on that day."

Ritta Nicoara—"This was my second *GATEWAY VOYAGE* program, and it was just as extraordinary as the first one in 2009 in Spain. This time I had my first OBE, aided by my roommate who grabbed my nonphysical hand and we started journeying together. I basked in the view and energy of the Piatra Craiului mountains, which brought me into a 'no-time' sacred state of being, and I succeeded in detaching myself completely from my social identity and obligations. The warm and safe atmosphere, so artfully created by Carol and Andrea, allowed the group to homogenize very quickly, though we all came from very different backgrounds.

"And thus my inner journeys began. Deep inside us lies a hidden core, where the truth of who we truly are remains locked up for a long time. This inner core transcends all perceptual distortions induced by society. With each exercise, I felt that the doors to this 'higher' part of us opened up more and more. The intensity and profundity of my inner experiences dissolved more and more the borders between my Inner Self and the Cosmic Consciousness. In my journeys, I was shown from a higher perspective the complex patterns of the most important events of my life, which gave me encouragement and a more profound understanding. But this was just the beginning! In other journeys, I traveled through the vast universe and witnessed the formation of my identity. I became ONE with that first energy source, which came down to this physical plane to manifest and experience itself so many times. I had a vision of my many births and re-births . . . through a long row of mother figures, several of whom I recognized as being part of my current life.

"The month of July 2010 was very eventful and transformative for me since right after the Romanian *VOYAGE,* Andrea and I conducted an *EXCURSION* workshop, after which I received my accreditation as a TMI *OUTREACH* facilitator. I now conduct *EXCURSION* programs all over Romania, an activity that I truly enjoy. I am deeply grateful to Carol and Andrea for bringing TMI to me and to Romania."

From my [Andrea's] perspective it was a thoroughly rewarding experience, and I was honored to assist Carol in facilitating the *VOYAGE* in Romania. I truly enjoyed the group. They were so engaged, dedicated, and eager to explore and share their wonderful journeys. I felt that all the hard work over so many years had been worth it. In summary, the program was a resounding success. The feedback from the participants was loud and clear: bring more TMI programs to Romania! So another *GATEWAY VOYAGE* is scheduled for June 2011 and, tentatively, a *LIFELINE*® program in September 2011. These plans continue our vision to enable the global awakening of humanity by taking TMI programs all over the world and actively assisting in the evolution of human consciousness.

Carol, Andrea, and participants who shared their experiences

Participants bask in the post-*VOYAGE* glow

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